



General Assembly

February Session, 2006

Raised Bill No. 323

LCO No. 1721

01721_____TRA

Referred to Committee on Transportation

Introduced by:
(TRA)

***AN ACT CONCERNING OPEN CONTAINERS OF ALCOHOL IN
MOTOR VEHICLES.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2006*) (a) For purposes of this
2 section:

3 (1) "Alcoholic beverage" has the same meaning as in section 30-1 of
4 the 2006 supplement;

5 (2) "Highway" has the same meaning as in section 14-1 of the 2006
6 supplement;

7 (3) "Open alcoholic beverage container" means a bottle, can or other
8 receptacle that (A) contains any amount of an alcoholic beverage, and
9 (B) (i) is open or has a broken seal, or (ii) the contents of which are
10 partially removed;

11 (4) "Passenger" means any occupant of a motor vehicle other than
12 the operator; and

13 (5) "Passenger area" means (A) the area designed to seat the

14 operator of and any passenger in a motor vehicle while such vehicle is
 15 being operated on a highway, or (B) any area of the motor vehicle that
 16 is readily accessible to such operator or passenger, except that, in a
 17 motor vehicle not equipped with a trunk, "passenger area" does not
 18 include a locked glove compartment, the area behind the last upright
 19 seat closest to the rear of the motor vehicle or an area not normally
 20 occupied by the operator of or passengers in such motor vehicle.

21 (b) No person shall possess an open alcoholic beverage container
 22 within the passenger area of a motor vehicle while such motor vehicle
 23 is on any highway in this state.

24 (c) The provisions of subsection (b) of this section do not apply to (1)
 25 a passenger in a motor vehicle designed, maintained and primarily
 26 used to transport people for hire, and (2) a passenger in the living
 27 quarters of a recreational vehicle, as defined in section 14-1 of the
 28 general statutes, as amended.

29 (d) Any person who violates the provisions of subsection (b) of this
 30 section shall be fined not more than five hundred dollars.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	October 1, 2006	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To prohibit the possession of an open alcoholic beverage container in the passenger area of a motor vehicle while such motor vehicle is on any state highway.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]